Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

Traces routed through a computer depiction of a routing area of <u>a system, such as</u> an electronics system, comprise a plurality of connected nodes. <u>The traces may be smoothed, straightened, or otherwise adjusted (e.g., to correct design rule violations) by assigning forces to the nodes and moving the nodes in accordance with the nodes.</u> ~~Forces are assigned to the nodes, and the nodes are moved in accordance with the forces.~~ The forces may be based on such things as the proximity of the nodes to each other and to obstacles in the routing area. ~~This tends to smooth, straighten and/or shorten the traces, and may also tend to correct design rule violations.~~